



# Operation Boo 2015

## A Parent's Guide

### Welcome Parents and Guardians!



Thanks for joining the Round Rock Police Parent Patrol. Taking part in this educational exercise helps us keep your kids safe. Together, we'll teach our children how to spot and avoid potential sexual predators - not just on Halloween, but all the time.

The Round Rock Police Department wants you and your children to have a safe and fun Halloween. On Halloween night, we'll be out in force citywide for Operation Boo 2015. It's our first year that we're verifying and checking special conditions of known sex offenders in the area. The conditions include:

- Setting special curfew hours when sex offenders aren't allowed to have their porch lights on and can't have Halloween decorations on their home, offer trick-or-treat candy or answer the door.
- Performing compliance checks on sex offenders. Local law enforcement officers in various jurisdictions will do this in conjunction with our state law enforcement partners.

Awareness can go a long way in helping keep children safe – not just on Halloween, but all the time. **There are almost 84,495 sex-offenders statewide in Texas.** We'll be keeping a watchful eye so you can be out having fun with your kids.

# **Easy, process to help increase your child's safety.**

## **A few days before Halloween:**

1. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with information about the latest methods for helping young children detect potentially dangerous adult behavior. Most sexual crimes against children are not committed by strangers. Of sexual assaults against people age 12 and up, about 80 percent of the victims know the offender. So we've listed several website locations with tips on how to talk to your children about dangerous behaviors by any adult, not just strangers.

### **Resources**

#### **Crime Victims Center for Prevention**

<http://www.parentsformeganslaw.org>

#### **Locate registered sex offenders anywhere**

<http://www.familywatchdog.us/>

#### **What to teach your kids: "Dangerous Adult Behaviors"**

<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/talk-to-strangers.html>

#### **Sex Offenders: "What should you tell your children?"**

<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/sexoffender3-1.html>

#### **Prevention Tip Sheets: "Talking to Children and Teens"**

[http://www.stopitnow.org/talking\\_to\\_kids](http://www.stopitnow.org/talking_to_kids)

2. Once you pick the tips you feel comfortable sharing with your family, go over the information with your family. If you'd like, you can do it while the children color the special printout on the next page - the "Operation Boo Parent Patrol Badge." This fun exercise will give you a non-threatening opportunity to talk to your kids about spotting dangerous adult behaviors.

**FAMILY COLORING ACTIVITY**  
**Operation Boo**  
**Parent Patrol Badge**



Once colored, cut out the Parent Patrol Badge (above) and attach it to your corkboard or fridge as a reminder to the kids to follow your safety tips.

## **At least a day before trick-or-treating:**

3. Please go to the Texas Department of Public Safety website. It has a link to the Texas Registered Sex Offender Registry.  
<https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/SexOffender/>
4. Once on the website, you can check the area in which you'll be trick-or-treating so you can spot the homes of known sex offenders. If you'd like, map it out for yourself.
5. Familiarize yourself with the special conditions of parole for sex offenders in Texas. The conditions are:
  - A 5 p.m. - 5 a.m. curfew during which sex-offender parolees must remain indoors;
  - All exterior lights of their homes must be turned off so that it looks as if no one is home, which discourages children from approaching;
  - No offering of Halloween candy and no Halloween decorations are allowed;
  - During the curfew, sex-offender parolees can only open the door to respond to law enforcement and, community supervision personnel who are conducting compliance checks such as parole agents who are patrolling their caseload to ensure compliance.



## **On Halloween Night:**

6. Don't forget to wear your parent patrol badge to let everyone know you're a part of the growing army of parents fighting back against sexual predators. Wearing the badge will also help make other parents aware of this project and send a message to sex offenders that they're being watched by conscientious parents like you.
7. Please do not attempt to take any enforcement action yourself. If you see a suspected sex-offender (someone living in a home on the sex-offender locator) breaking the special conditions of parole on Halloween night, call your local law enforcement by dialing 911.



8. Have a fun trick-or-treat experience knowing you've taken precautions to keep your children safe from sexual predators not just on Halloween, but all the time. We've chosen Halloween as a good time to make parents and kids aware of sexual predators. Sexual predators shy away from scrutiny and now you're a part of the Operation Boo Parent Patrol helping shine an even brighter light on predators.

**Thanks for joining the Round Rock Police  
Parent Patrol!**